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H. I. M. Amha Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia

November 6, 1992

President Elect-Bill Clinton
Governor's House
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. President Elect:

On the happy occasion of your election to the highest office of the land as President of the United States of America, please accept our hearty congratulations.

The heavy burden of responsibility that the U.S. Presidency carries with it becomes even more awesome with the unique position that the U.S. occupies today as the world's only super power. Our prayers and good wishes are with you in assuming the leadership of this great nation at this critical time in its history as well as the history of the world.

Ethiopia and the U.S. have enjoyed a long history of friendship. Our great and illustrious father, Emperor Haile Selassie I, had firmly laid the foundations for the strong bonds of friendly ties that have always existed between the United States and Ethiopia. As it has been demonstrated during the Korean conflict in the 50's, Ethiopian troops fought bravely at the side of the U.S. in defense of freedom and the U.N. principle of collective security under his leadership. Both in times of peace and war our two countries worked together in close collaboration. Ethiopia has been a faithful ally of the U.S., for nearly half a century which spans almost the entire period of the Cold War. It is to be noted that it was Emperor Haile Selassie's loyalty and friendship with the West in general, and the U.S. in particular, that earned him the sworn enmity of the then Soviet Union and its allies in communist Cuba and Eastern Europe which ultimately led to his overthrow and death.

Today Ethiopia stands on the threshold of a new era after the downfall of the communist dictatorship that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie. Perhaps more than at any time in its long history, Ethiopia stands in need of friends who can save her from impending disaster. Forces are let loose that can lead to Ethiopia's disintegration and fragmentation much to the detriment and instability not only of the Horn of Africa but also that of the entire African continent. As things stand now only the U.S. has the ability and the resources necessary to bring the situation under control.

As you are preparing to take on the awesome responsibility of the leadership of this great nation and that of the world, we would like to draw your attention to the plight of our long suffering people in Ethiopia. Since the London Conference which gave birth to the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, U.S. policies towards Ethiopia have been very disturbing to most Ethiopians. However well intentioned initially, the net result of these policies have been harmful to Ethiopia. We appeal to your sense of justice and compassion to have the courage to change and reverse the misguided, shortsighted and in many ways destructive policies pursued by the past administration, and save Ethiopia from total annihilation. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

"Ethiopia stretches her hands to God"

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to read 'Amha Selassie I'.

Amha Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia